

Palestine



or

Israel?!

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Foreword

Most people outside the Middle East cannot understand why the struggle between the Arabs and the Israelis has gone on for so long. Why, they ask, cannot the Arabs recognise that Israel is here to stay and get down to solving their urgent social and economic problems? Why are so much material resources and capital wasted on bitter and apparently hopeless fighting? What is so easily overlooked by those outside the struggle is that Israel came into existence as a state by the displacement of a whole people — the Palestinian Arabs. How did this come about?

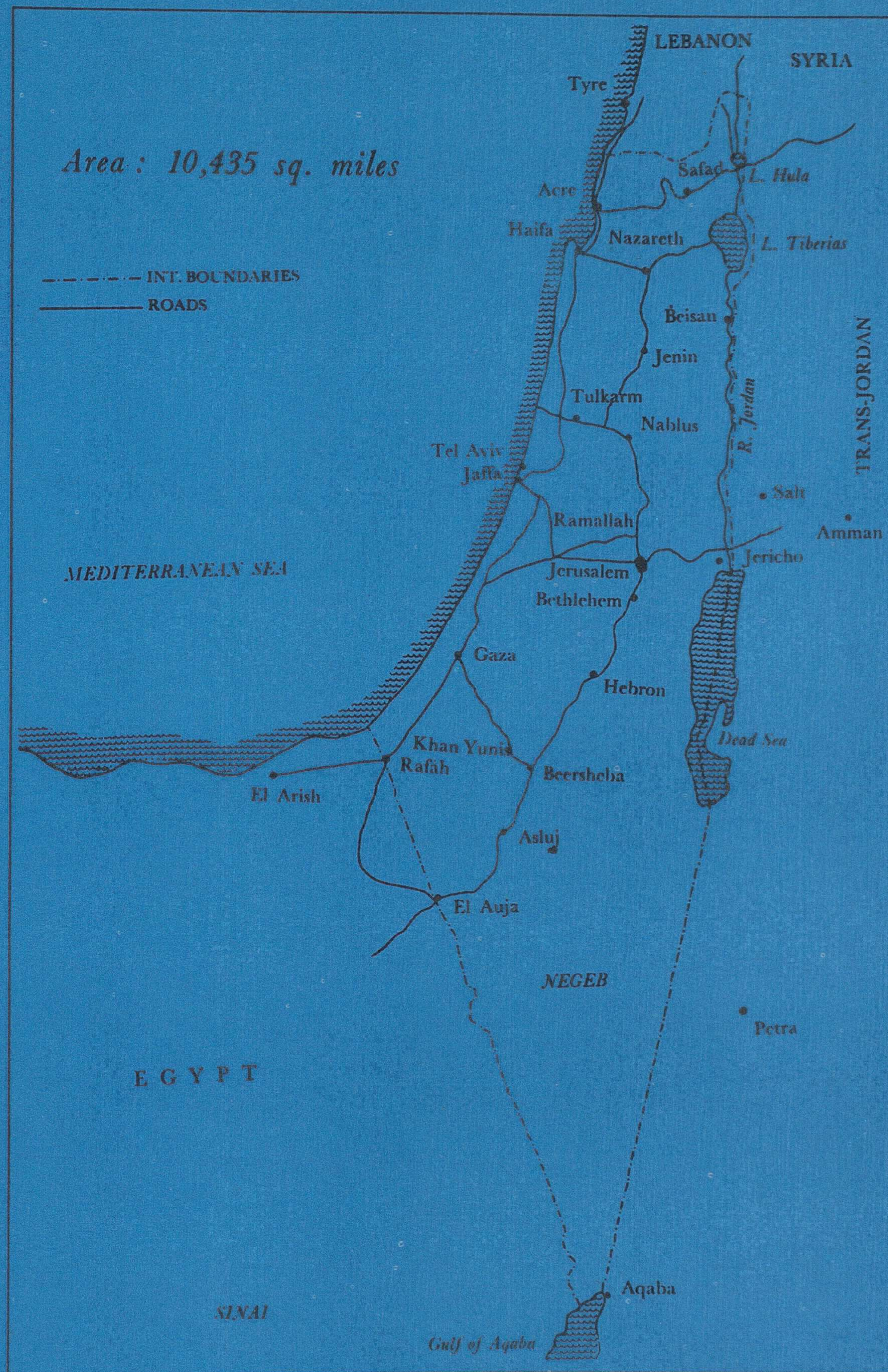
This pictorial statement tells a story which goes back to 1917 when the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour, promised support for the creation of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. Palestine was then part of the Ottoman Empire. Encouraged by Britain, Jews from all over the world flooded into Palestine. Zionism appeared as a new nationalist movement and was supported by wealthy Jews in the major Western countries. The Fascist persecution of the European Jews evoked sympathy from Western liberals and strengthened the desire for a National Home where the Jews could build a new state and live without fear. The tragedy was that they could only achieve this through the use of the same weapons which so often in the past had been used against them — terror and force.

The indigenous Palestinian Arabs had lived side by side with Jews for centuries in peace and mutual tolerance. But with the influx of the European Jews of a radically different way of life, imbued with aggressive nationalism, and with their terrorist organisations, the Arabs reacted by forming a resistance. Consequently, during the British mandate, strikes and demonstrations were common in Palestine, until the colonial administration broke down altogether and the problem was handed over to the United Nations. The United Nations was faced with a vastly changed situation from that of 1919, for since that time large numbers of Jews had migrated from Europe. On 29th November, 1947, a settlement was recommended which created a Jewish State and gave 56% of Palestine to the Jews, 43% to the Arabs and an international zone including Jerusalem and its environs on the remaining 1%. The fighting which broke out in 1948 resulted in the Jews occupying 77% of Palestine. Effectively Palestine had disappeared from the political map. But its people could not disappear and they remained either in huge refugee camps or became political exiles in other Arab countries. The freedom of political expression, the right of self-government, and the civil and personal liberties achieved by the Jews were taken away from the Palestinians. They left their homes, land and possessions behind them in Israel.

It is a sad irony that liberty for one means a loss of liberty for another. Since the deprivation of the Palestinians, the struggle against the state of Israel and Zionism has continued. It will continue not because of the support given to it by other Arab nations and the Soviet Union, or because Israel has taken more and more territory through her conquests, or because of an unfavourable international situation, but because a whole people have been unjustly deprived of their basic freedoms. It is the belief of the writer that justice is indivisible and that what is justice for the Jews must also be justice for the Palestinians.



*Peaceful co-existence in Palestine.
Pre 1917*



Palestine 1917

Population:—

Total: 700,000
Arabs: 644,000
Jews: 56,000

Land ownership:—

Total: 6,589,755 acres
Arabs: 6,427,255 98%
Jews: 162,500 2%

Foreign Office.

November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

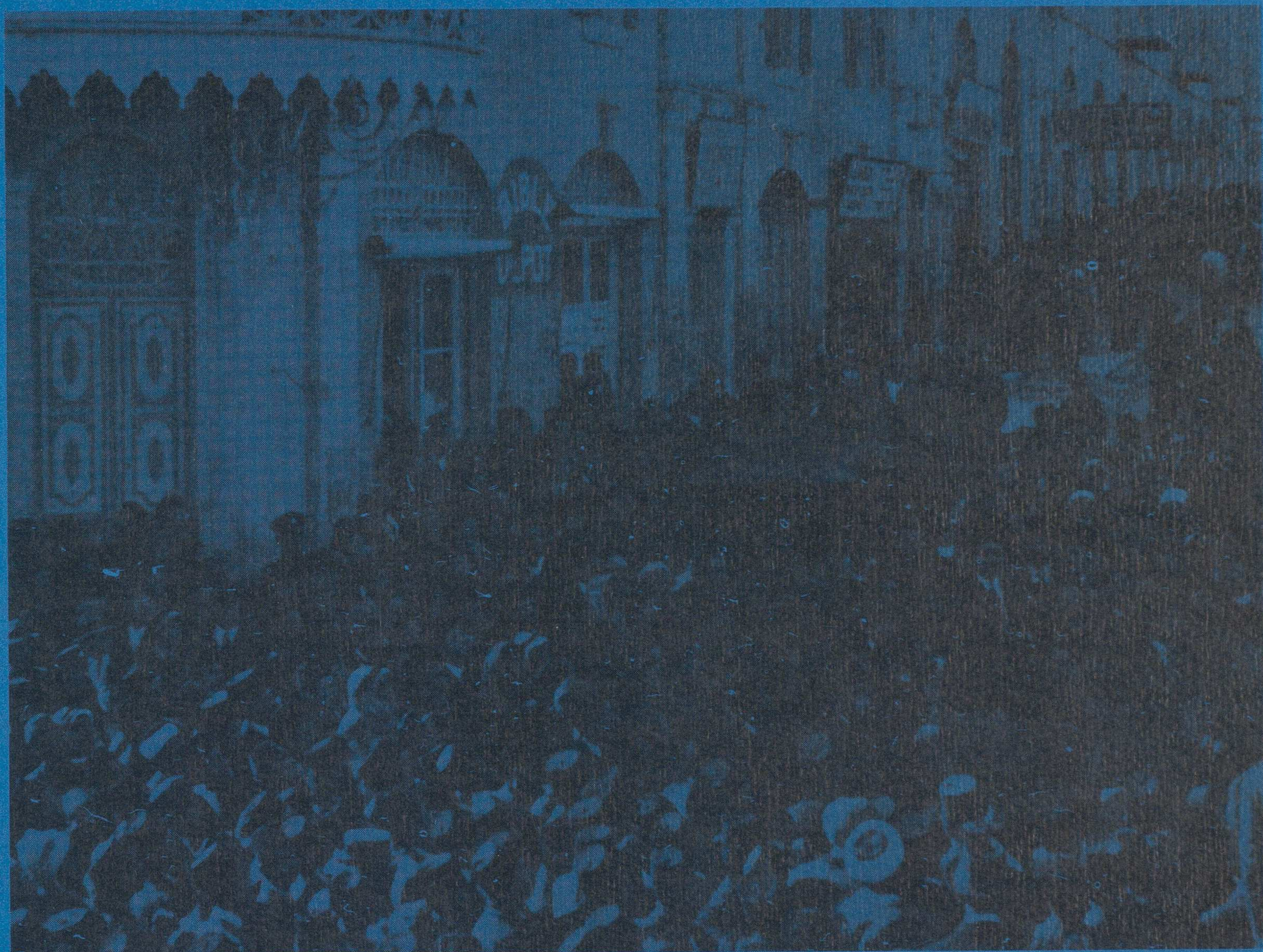
I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country".

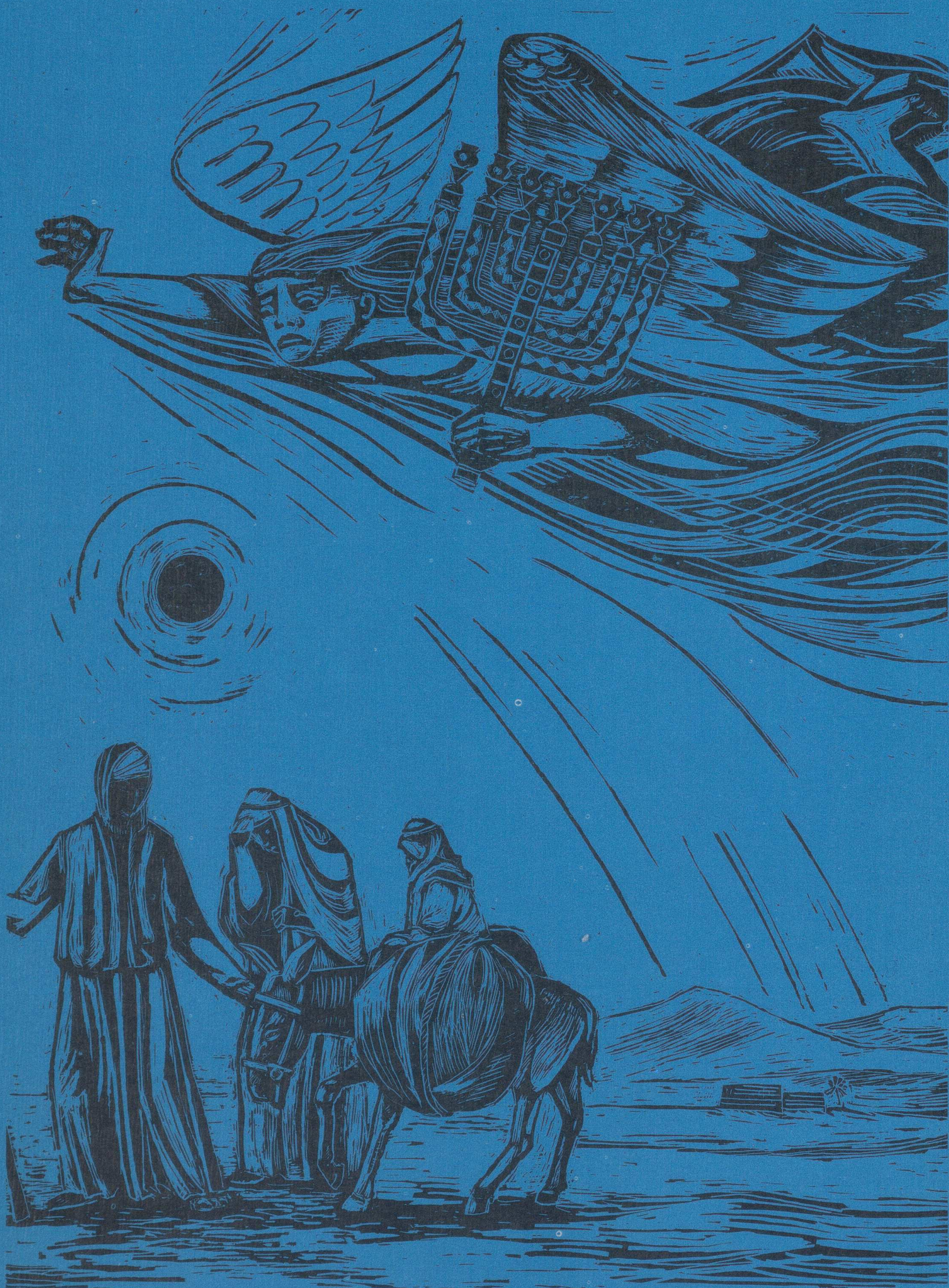
I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours
Arthur Balfour

The Balfour Declaration



Arabs' reactions to the Declaration



*“The aim of Zionism
is to create for
Jewish people a home in Palestine”*



Robert Hitchen, traveller (1910)

. . . but Palestine was no desert



*The persecution of Jews in Europe
rose to new heights.*



*and the Jews fled . . .
 . . . to the "Promised Land"*



Arab resistance began



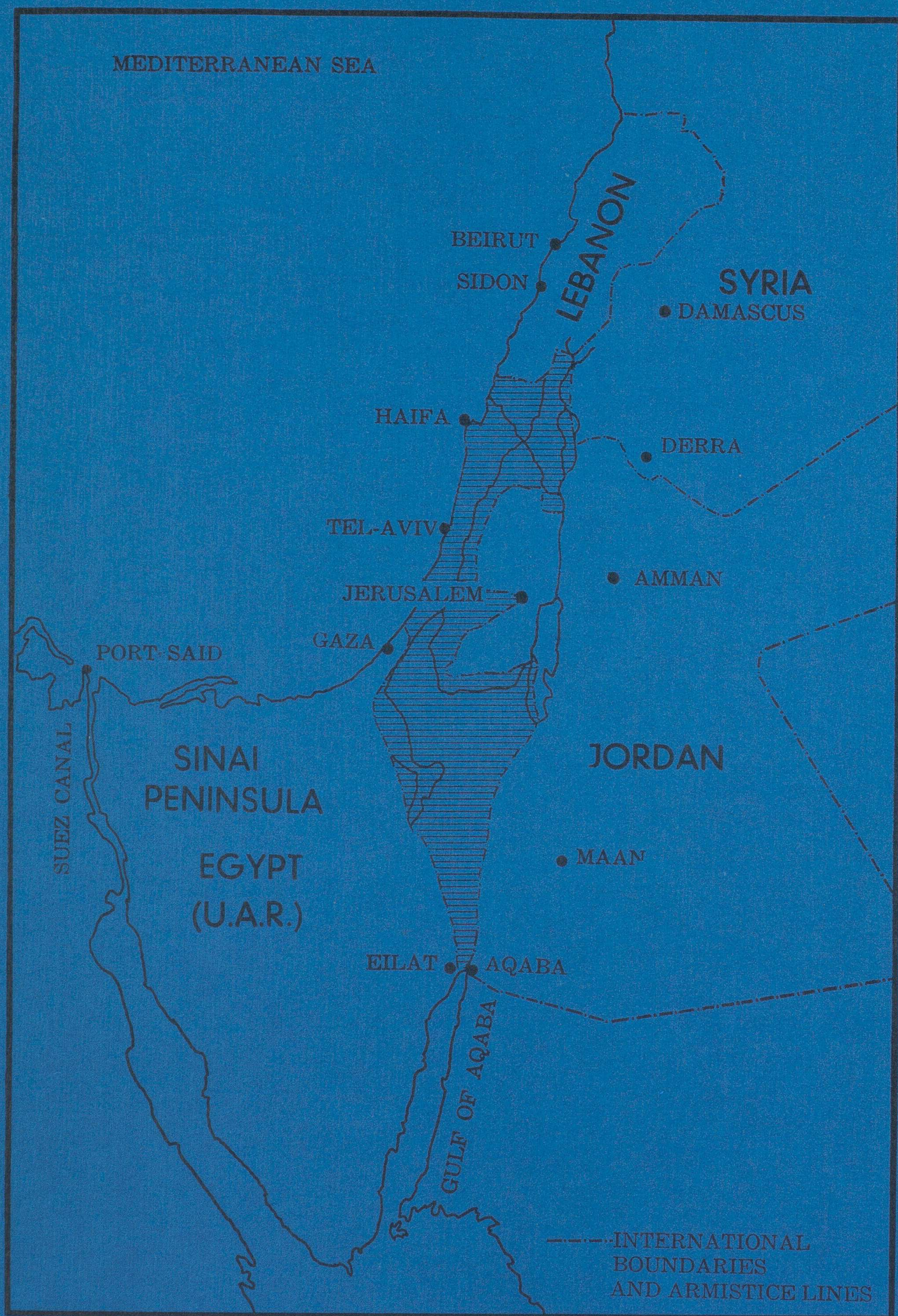
The British supported the Jews



. . . and the Palestinians lost their land



*The exodus of Palestinian Arab
refugees began*



Palestine after the 1948 war.

Distribution of land:—

Jews: 77%

Arabs: 23%



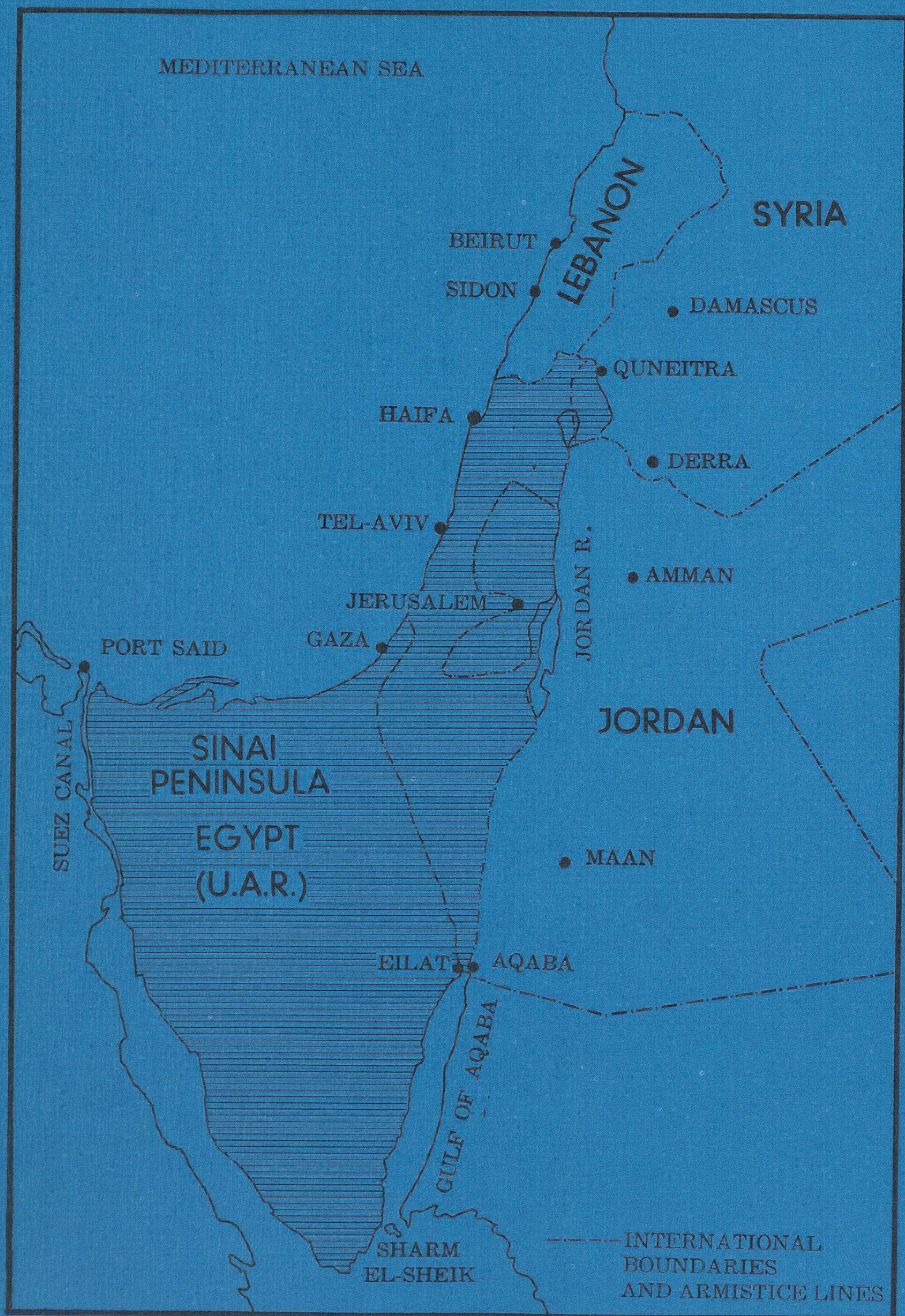
The June 1967 war



More destruction . . .



. . . and more homeless refugees



Palestine 1967

*The Israelis now occupy all Palestine,
The Golan heights of Syria, and the
Sinai Peninsula*



Arab resistance continues



The Palestinians' hope for the future is a democratic state where Jews, Moslems and Christians live in harmony.

